

their termini at London-bridge are said to be considering the propriety of running early trains for the accommodation of parties residing or desiring to reside, from ten to fifteen miles from town. House property near the lines would of course be benefited within the proposed limits, and the health of the metropolis so far at least promoted.—Crockford's Club House has been sold by the executors for 2,900*l*. It is held on lease, of which thirty-two years are unexpired, subject to a yearly rent of 1,400*l*. It is said that the decorations alone cost 94,000*l*.—On Monday last a meeting was held at Greenwich for the purpose of providing for the erection of a new church in that district. The crown and the trustees of Morden College have both offered sites. The expense is estimated at 6,000*l*, of which nearly 2,000*l* have been already raised.

SKELTON CHURCH, YORKSHIRE.*

SKELTON CHURCH, small as it is, is a charming example of early English work, and affords an admirable subject for illustration. In the book just now published by Mr. Christian, the structure and all its parts are set forth in the fullest manner, and apparently with great care; it deserves to be purchased by all who are interested in ecclesiastical architecture. There are seventeen plates, each accompanied by a page of letter-press, and preceded by a brief account of the edifice, from which we extract the following:—

The village of Skelton, in which the church stands, lies about four miles from York, a little to the right of the old Great North Road. It contained, in 1841, three hundred and sixty-seven inhabitants.

The church was formerly connected with York, as will be seen from the following extract from "Lawton's Collections relative to Churches and Chapels within the Diocese of York" (vol. ii., page 486):—"The church of Skelton is an ancient rectory, formerly belonging to the patronage of the treasurer of the Cathedral Church of York, and on the dissolution of the treasury it came to the Crown, and in Archbishop Sharp's time the presentation was in the hands of Sir James Brooke." It is prettily situated upon rising ground at the northern extremity of the village, and is freely exposed to view on every side. It is dedicated to "All Saints," though it is sometimes called Little St. Peter's; "perhaps," as the writer in the account of the churches of Yorkshire observes, "from a tradition still prevalent in the parish, that it was built with the stones that remained after the south transept of the metropolitan church of St. Peter at York was finished, and by the same workmen." The south transept of York Minster was commenced A.D. 1227, during the archiepiscopate of Walter Grey; and although no mention is made of its erection in any of the documents belonging to the See of York, there can be little doubt, from the close similarity which many of the details of its architecture bear to similar parts in the transepts of the Minster, that some of the same hands that were employed upon that magnificent building, were also concerned in the erection of this more humble, but not less beautiful, little church; and consequently the tradition may not be wholly without foundation.

Gent, in his "History of Ripon," gives currency to the same tradition; and an extract from his work may not be without interest, on this, as well as on other accounts.

"It was on the 7th of April, 1731, that I mounted my courser to seek the adventures I proposed; and was resolved to begin with viewing the little church at Skelton, about two miles north from York, because it is affirmed 'twas built with the stones that remained after the south cross of the Minster had been finished by the archbishop, Walter Grey. And indeed the south door seems to resemble that of the cathedral; alike adorned once with curious marble pillars, though now almost demolished. Three crosses are placed, one over the door, the second at the east, and the third at the west end of the church. On the top of it are two stately arches, designed perhaps for ornament; or if to contain the bells, they are not so used; those being in a little covered steeple. The largest of which has this motto: "Gloria

in excelsis, 1677; Richard Maskell, Churchwarden:" the lesser, "Venite exultemus Domino." Around the church are handsome proportional buttments, which, as they are strengthening and ornamental without, so no less within it is supported by strong and beautiful pillars. Near the altar are the remains of stone pots for the holy water. On the ground within the rails is an old stone with this inscription: Orate pro animâ magistri, Robert Lovell (I am informed he was Lord of Skelton, whose eldest son being unfortunately slain as he was playing at football, it devolved to others) qui obiit xxiv. die Julij, æt. Annæ uxoris ejus, quæ obiit xxv. die Martis mcccxcxi."—*Gent's Ripon*, page 2.

That the church was completed before 1247, appears from an extract from Archbishop Grey's roll, as follows:—

"Confirmation, of a donation to the chapel of Skelton.

To all, &c.—The donation which our beloved son in Christ, Master E. Hagitur, treasurer, of York, made to John de l'Edes, clerk of the chapel at Skelton; considering it to be agreeable and satisfactory to us, we confirm the same by our pontifical authority, desiring the said treasurer and his successors to pay annually the sum of 20*d*. to this same person.

"In witness whereof, &c., &c. Dated at Thorp, on the 6th day of the Ides of December, A.D. 1247, in the subscribed year of our pontificate."

In the absence of any precise information on the subject, it may perhaps not be unfairly concluded, that the honour of its erection is due to Walter Grey, the archbishop under whose auspices the south transept of the Minster was erected, and who held the see from 1216 to 1255.

The church is built of a light-coloured limestone, and is in very tolerable condition, having been carefully restored from a state, in some respects, almost ruinous, nearly thirty years ago. Considering the want of information which at that period so generally prevailed upon such subjects, great credit is due to the young architect, Mr. Graham, by whom the restoration was conducted: and much honour to the memory of Mrs. Thompson, the excellent lady to whose timely munificence we are indebted for the preservation of this interesting edifice. It is true, that to the more advanced knowledge of correct church restoration which is now becoming generally diffused, a few of Mr. Graham's ideas of propriety may appear somewhat singular; and the modern pews and gallery with which the church is encumbered, are by no means to be commended; but at that time a proposal to restore the low open seats of our ancestors, instead of making so called "comfortable pews," would most probably have been scouted, and even now the idea is often barely tolerated.

Mr. Graham had the advantage of being able to employ men brought up in the school of the restorers of York Minster—men well skilled in the execution of every detail of Gothic art, and accustomed to it from their boyhood. To one of the most intelligent and careful of these, Mr. Taylor, he committed the restoration of the stone-work. I had the satisfaction, when last at York, through the kindness of Mr. Sharp, architect, a personal friend of Mr. Graham, of meeting with Mr. Taylor, now a very old man; and from the conversation I had with him, I feel confident that nothing would have induced him to deviate from his model in the work entrusted to his care; and that the accuracy of his restoration, where it affects the character of the work, may be fully relied on. The repair of the church was begun in 1814, by the celebrated Rev. Dr. Buchanan, who was son-in-law to Mr. Thompson. He commenced with the roof, and the whole work was completed in 1818, at a cost to that lady of about 1,000*l*. The roof was formerly covered with tiles, but it is now slated with Westmoreland slates, the colour of which harmonizes very well with the building and the surrounding scenery.

TERMINATION OF THE STRIKE.—We have elsewhere announced that the strike at Birkenhead was at an end, and we are extremely glad to say that the struggle has also ceased in Liverpool. The master masons have resolved to yield the 2*½*s. per week to the men, and half an hour refreshment time each afternoon.—*Liverpool Standard*.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

A WASHINGTON correspondent of one of the Philadelphia papers, in a communication dated 6th of June, gives an account of Professor Morse's electric telegraph, from which it appears, that by machinery he has already invented, he can cause to be imprinted, at least 120 characters per minute. "Let us," says the writer, "allow, to the different European systems, for any improvements they may have made within the last year, that they can give double the quantity of intelligence which they claim to send in a minute, and the amount will stand thus:—

Prof. Morse's (American).....	100 per minute.
Bain's (Scottish).....	50 "
Wheatstone's (English).....	30 "
Breguet's (French).....	12 "

and we have in figures, at a glance, and with all the advantages allowed in favour of the foreign telegraphs, the decided superiority of the American."

"By the way," observes the writer, in conclusion, "it was announced by the papers, a few days ago, as a recent discovery, that the professor could communicate, at intermediate places along the line, without interrupting the line of communication. This is no recent discovery. The professor, I am told, made an experiment in New York in 1842, by which he shewed that thirty instruments, which he had at hand, could be operated along a line at the same time."

The only telegraph in Europe which imprints is said to be that of Mr. Bain, of Edinburgh, which, therefore, has this advantage in common with that of Professor Morse, that, while other telegraphs shew the letter but momentarily, on a little revolving dial plate, so that it is lost if not observed at the instant, those of Morse and Bain record them not only permanently but with greater rapidity, especially that of Morse—by which, even with one wire, and upwards of a year since, sixty signs, it is said, were recorded in a minute.

GAS STATISTICS.

At the last meeting of the Statistical Society a paper was read, giving a statistical account of the provisions for paving, lighting, and cleansing the streets and public places of the metropolis, by Mr. Joseph Fletcher, honorary secretary. From this it appears, that the existing gas companies have eighteen establishments, and employ a capital of 2,800,000*l*. in works, pipes, tanks, gasometers, and apparatus; the number of persons employed in this trade being about 2,500, besides 380 lamp-lighters, occupied in the care of 30,400 public lamps, which illuminate the streets. The supposed advantages of competition in the supply of gas were said to be as fallacious as those of imagined competition in the supply of water. Ample interest for the capital (double, treble, or quadruple what is required for effecting the service) which has been laid down by rival companies in the same streets and districts, is inevitably levied on the public under terms of compromise between the several companies—terms which convert the fancied competition into a monopoly divided into shares, while the condition of the streets is greatly deteriorated by the multiplied occasions to remove the pavements, to get at such an excessive number of pipes for purposes of repair, &c.

PRIZES IN ARCHITECTURE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

THE distribution of prizes at University College for the session 1845-46, took place on Wednesday last, the 1st inst., Mr. Grote presided. The following are the names of the successful candidates in architecture, under Professor Donaldson:—

First Year's Course as a Fine Art Prize and First Certificate.—Benj. J. Benwell; second certificate Fredk. Lawrence.

Second Year's Course as a Fine Art Prize and First Certificate.—John Pollard Seddon; second certificate, Wm. Wood Deane.

First Year's Course as a Science Prize and First Certificate.—G. P. Boyce, and Fredk. Lawrence, equal; second certificate, B. J. Benwell.

Second Year's Course as a Science Prize and First Certificate.—T. G. D. Allason; second certificate, Wm. Wood Deane.

* Architectural Illustrations of Skelton Church, Yorkshire, by Ewan Christian, architect. George Bell, Fleet-street: 1846.